

What You Need to Know About ELISHA:

**“Heir of the Spirit:
‘What wish shall I grant you
before I am taken away’ (2 Kings 2:9)”**

Study Number Eight – 2 Kings 13:14-21

Where have we been? Elisha picked up the mantle. It had fallen from Elijah’s shoulders as he was caught up into heaven.

Living across the Jordan River, he had a miracle in Jericho with the water situation and then on to Bethel. From there he was plunged immediately into international significance as he faced the kings of Edom, Israel and Judah.

After the battle with the Moabites, he entered into a beautiful chapter. Some very precious and personal encounters with people who had needs.

First of all, the seminary wife and then the lady at Shunam. And then the students themselves had some real needs as far as food was concerned and the prophet made those provisions.

Then we saw him confronted by a general from the Syrian forces who had leprosy. And we watched him minister in two situations. First to his students who felt the stress of the

success of his ministry because they didn't have enough places to stay. The seminary needed to be expanded and sure enough when they got started in the expansion program somebody had an accident and the axe head fell in the river.

Then we saw the people in time of famine under God's judgment. A place of great destitution, God makes a miraculous provision for them through four lepers who considered all the alternatives and decide the best place to go is to the enemy camp. We just fell in love with those guys. They were beautiful.

And then another thing that came out of that was as they sat there gorging themselves in the tent with all that food, while everybody else was starving inside the walls of the city, they made that statement, "We are not doing well."

And that's a picture of the church today. Especially in America, are we gorging ourselves with spiritual truth and opportunities to study the scripture, but we so little share it positively with others? Taking the initiative ourselves to go where people are to share the message of Christ?

We saw God deal very severely with the people once again. The famine was three and a half years under Elijah's ministry, but now under Elisha's it's seven years.

The principle we got out of that was, when we resist God's dealings in our lives it's going to get worse. It's not going to get better. And the more we resist the more difficult it's going

to become.

Life becomes increasingly more constraining and more confined as God walls us in to get us to respond. And for the nation Israel, they're ready to go through seven years of famine and economic collapse.

We saw the woman at Shunam again. She stepped into the page because Elisha had just come off of Carmel and he stopped off there for a hot meal and was going to spend the night. He told her the message that he had gotten from the Lord. And that was that she could go outside the land and be protected for the next seven years—and the Lord did that.

It was beautiful at the end of the seven years when she came back. Right at that particular time old Jehoram and Gehazi were sitting up there in the palace and who were they talking about? About her and her son who had been given back the gift of life.

And we tried to share in that particular concept that God in His providential dealings has timing that is perfect. And it's marvelous when we can see demonstrations of God's provision and grace at the very time of our need.

And that brings us to our last study. Since our previous study, fifty years have passed. Just that quick. Isn't that amazing? How God can pick out specific things that He wants to share but then BOOM, here in one phrase, He can say fifty years are gone.

Elisha, from the last study until this one, has been ministering faithfully for fifty years and there's been no results to his ministry. Talk about teaching a Sunday school class for thirty years. Here's a guy who even just from then until now has ministered fifty years and the people are in the same condition.

We begin to feel sorry for a guy like that. And yet he's been faithful to do what God wants him to do, and that's the most important thing.

Historically several things have happened. In fifty years a lot of things could happen. First of all, Jehoram went to battle with his forces against Syria and was wounded in battle. He came back to Jezreel to recover from his battle wounds and Elisha sent one of the young prophets to anoint Jehu to become king of Israel.

Jehu, when he became king of Israel, was one of the bloodiest kings to ever reign in that land. He was a king who executed judgment against Ahab's house and immediately went down and assassinated Jehoram. Ahaziah was there from Judah consulting him and he assassinated him too, plus he wreaked vengeance and judgment on the whole house of Ahab. Cleaned them out. God had predicted that was going to happen because of their sin and rebellion under Elijah's ministry.

Then Jehu ruled with an iron fist, although he did evil in the sight of the Lord, for twenty-eight years. There's Elisha just

preaching away the message, just being faithful.

When Jehu passes off the scene, Jehoahaz, his son, comes on the scene. Jehoahaz is just as bad if not worse than his daddy. And for seventeen years he reigns.

He then passes off the scene and Jehoash comes to the throne. And he rules for sixteen years, but he's only ruled for about two or three of those years as the scene of our study opens before us.

So we can say that approximately fifty years of ministry have transpired since this time. Now when we figure it all out we find out that as the scene of our story opens, our star is 120 years old. He started his ministry at thirty. We believe that he was called to join Elijah at thirty. And from thirty to forty he had those ten years of preparation. And from 40 to 120 he's been preaching and teaching and warning the people of coming judgment by himself. So he's had an expanse of ninety years of ministry.

Now with that in mind, with the time of physical death for Elisha, let's pick up at verse 14.

v. 14 When Elisha became sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash the king of Israel came down to him and wept over him and said, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!"

"When Elisha became sick with the illness of which he was to

die, Joash the king of Israel came down to him and wept over him and said, ‘My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!’”

Now remember there are two kings. One in the north and one in the south. Both of these guys have the name Jehoash and Joash—they’re very close in name.

Here the king comes because he hears that Elisha’s sick. Isn’t that interesting that they would reject him all of his life and all of his ministry, but when he gets sick they’re going to come around?

That’s the way it is. We hate somebody until they get ready to die and then we change our whole attitude toward them. We never should have reconciled while they were living, but we sure do cry when they get ready to die.

Here he comes down to see Elisha. And it starts out by saying a “sickness of which he was to die.”

We all are going to get sick at some time and that’s going to be the sickness with which we die. And we have to be careful that when we are sick in God’s will to the point of physical death that we don’t assume that it is His will for us to get well.

That leads to a lot of bitterness and resentment among Christian people because we make some false assumptions along that line sometimes. And we see that in a great deal of the healing methods that are running around today. It’s a

dangerous thing to presume that we know the will of God for the span of our years.

It is far better with the Lord Jesus to say, “Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not my will but Yours be done. Lord, if this is the end of my days, in grace and dignity and in peace may I accept it and look forward to being in Your presence soon.” Rather than to come and command the Lord what He must do to bring healing into our life.

That’s a serious statement, but with some people today who command oftentimes old people who are ready to go be with the Lord, that they be healed. And it happens as an act of faith that they do so. And when they’re not healed it’s because they didn’t have enough faith. That it’s wrong to let a believer go home.

It is very specific here that Elisha was “sick with an illness of which he was about to die.” This is God’s time for him to be sick and to come home! The old body’s deteriorated and his assignments here have been mighty years in length and it’s time for him to come to the house because God’s got some new assignments up there!

It’s difficult to understand why it is that as Christians we are so repulsed by the thought of physical death. In a materialistic society we’ve lived so much for the temporary that we can’t go to the eternal. When we should be looking for the city whose builder and marker is God! And look forward with great

anticipation to go to it.

As a Christian if we're living with proper priorities and perspective in our life, we're living in light of glory. And so when we die we aren't losing what we lived for. We're going to it. And so it's a pretty exciting prospect when we've lived in anticipation of that all of our life that we finally get to go to it.

Not that we have to face the horrible frustration that we're leaving everything we lived for. That's why it says "seek those things which are above."

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Keep the focus on the eternal. It makes this time a much more blessed time. And an easier time, because we know we're going to be with the Lord.

"Elisha became sick with the illness of which he was to die,"

So the king came down and he "wept over him."

Those tears probably aren't genuine. They treated Elisha during all of these years as some kind of fortune teller. They always came to him when they wanted to know what God was going to do. They always wanted to come when they needed help. Like Jehoshaphat, remember he said, "Is there no prophet in Israel we can get the mind of the Lord in this thing?" And they say, "Yes, there is one that used to wash the hands of Elijah."

And so Jehoram and the king of Edom and Jehoshaphat go and call on him to get some advice from him about what's going to happen.

And really that's about all they've ever done with him. They've treated him in such a way. What's Elisha been doing? He's been living a kind of quiet, unobtrusive life. He's been adorning the doctrine by a beautiful life. And now he's dying the death of the righteous.

They laughed at him while he lived and they wept for him when he died. They despised him while he was here and thought of him of little value. But they realized when he was gone what a treasure they had.

Joash is most likely crying because he realizes he doesn't have anybody to turn to. He knows there is absolutely no anchor to his soul and to his administration now, because God's man is getting ready to pass off the scene. And so he knows it's the time of his death.

And notice that next phrase. Does that look familiar?

“My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!”

Remember the first statement that Elisha made when Elijah was caught home to glory?

“My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” Whoosh! He’s gone. Elijah’s into the presence of the Lord.

Elisha starts his ministry with a statement and he hears it from the lips of somebody else at the end of it! Elisha knows he’s going to die. He knows he’s going home. Now if he’d act like some of us he’d break down and start to cry, start feeling sorry and want everybody to wait on him hand and foot because he’s getting ready to leave this old world.

He ends it as tough as he started it. He doesn’t want any self-pity at all. The crying in verse 14, “My father, father, the chariots of Israel.”

Look at the way he says it—verse 15.

**v. 15 And Elisha said to him, “Take a bow and arrows.”
So he took a bow and arrows.**

“And Elisha said to him, ‘Take a bow and arrows.’ So he took a bow and arrows.”

He said, “Get your archery equipment! I’ve still got a message for you guys before I leave here! Quit breaking my heart with your tears! I’ve got something I still want to say to you! I’m not finished!”

And those folks that are older and think they’re all done, the fact they’re still here is evidence they’re not done yet.

Every Christian ought to go to glory with his running shoes on.

Simon of Cambridge, that dear old saint, at 92 years of age said, "I cannot but run with all my might because I'm close to the goal." (source unknown)

The apostle Paul said, "I fought a good fight, I finished the course, I kept the faith." And then he put down his mantle, allowed his head to be taken from his body and he went to glory. (ref. 2 Timothy 4:7-8)

We don't find spiritual giants in the Bible retiring from God's work. God gives us a certain amount of time to live. And we are to "number our days and to apply our hearts to wisdom." (ref. Psalm 90:12) And we don't retire from the Lord's work and service.

The problem is we get tired, don't we?

"Well look at this guy! I mean he served for 90 years!"

When we've served for 25 or 30 we think we've really sacrificed a lot. And here's a guy that's going at 90 and he's still serving the Lord. And on his deathbed he's still got some things to do and some things to say before he wraps it all up.

"Get your archery equipment! Come on! Get the bows and arrows! I've got something I've got to tell you guys! This is it!"

You're gonna have an object lesson king before I leave!"

v. 16 Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." And he put his hand on it, then Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands.

"Then he said to the king of Israel, 'Put your hand on the bow. And he put his hand on it, then Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands."

v. 17 And he said, "Open the window toward the east," and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot!" And he shot. And he said, "The Lord's arrow of victory, even the arrow of victory over Syria; for you shall defeat the Syrians at Aphek until you have destroyed them."

"And he said, 'Open the window toward the east,' and he opened it. Then Elisha said, 'Shoot!' And he shot."

Now notice the next statement.

"And he said, 'The Lord's arrow of victory, even the arrow of victory over Syria; for you shall defeat the Syrians at Aphek until you have destroyed them.'"

The beautiful thing about these verses is that Elisha's thinking of others in the hour of his death. That's spiritual maturity.

Ever talked over with a mate how we're going to die? Ever laid that strategy out so we can be the kind of witness we ought to be when our hour comes? And if one goes before the other, that the surviving spouse will be ministering to the other on their deathbed, because the one staying behind is the one with the broken heart and they're going to have to grieve?

That takes maturity. Because when we think we get sick we've got a right to have everybody wait on us hand and foot. And that's the greatest opportunity for ministry.

Our greatest opportunity for ministry is the last act, not the first! Because we can show our world that God exists and that we have a living Christ whom we're going to meet face-to-face in that last and final act—dying with dignity.

Joni Eareckson Tada has written another book called *A Step Further*. It is the best book on human suffering.

One of the statements that she makes in the book that's really touching was: "Nothing ever comes into our lives but what it's filtered through the Father's fingers of love." (source unknown)

And then she goes on to say this, "I have learned in the last few months in the crucible of human suffering how to be resigned to a wheelchair for the rest of my life. And the decision that I have made is that I have one of two choices. I can indulge in self-pity for the rest of my life and live in bitterness or I can take my infirmity as an opportunity to

serve the body of Christ and I am now here stating that I am choosing the latter.” (source unknown)

Elisha takes his final opportunity to serve Israel and give the king a final message before he gives it all up.

Want another graphic illustration of that? The Lord Jesus. Ever meditated upon the process of that Thursday of Passion Week when Christ went to the cross? And then that Friday?

Everything Christ did, when He knew His hour was coming, was to minister to the needs of others. We find Him gathering the men that were closest to Him, the twelve in the upper room. Why? He’s preparing those men for His departure. He’s ministering to their needs, telling them not to be troubled in their hearts because He’s leaving! He’s just going to go prepare a place and He’s going to send a Comforter.

Down in the Garden of Gethsemane He prays. Then He goes to face the cross.

They pin Him on the cross and what’s the first thing He says as they put the nails into His hands and into His feet? “Father forgive them for they don’t know what they’re doing.” (ref. Luke 23:34) He is praying for those who are taking His life.

What does He do as soon as He gets on the cross? Who’s standing down there at the foot of the cross? There’s beloved John. The closest of the tribe. Who’s he got with him? Mary, that woman who had the glorious privilege of bringing Him

into the world.

Are they hurting? Do they feel bad? Yes. Is He hurting? You better believe it. He's just a few hours away from His physical death.

What does He say? He looks over at John and says, "Behold your mother." He looks to Mary and says, "Behold your son." (see John 19:26-27)

What's He doing? He's making provision for her to have a new son in John. And He's making provision for John to have a new stewardship in taking care of Mary the rest of her life.

Always thinking of others! The very fact that He hung there was He was thinking of us. He didn't want to drink that cup. In that garden He prayed, "Father if it be possible, let the cup pass. But nevertheless not my will but Yours be done." (ref. Matthew 26:39)

"I'm determined to do Your will! Even if it involves physical death." So He went all the way to the cross. Sealed it with the final commitment of the giving of His life.

We prove what kind of a believer we are by our ability to think of others when we're in the throes of physical death.

"Joash, pick up the bow and arrows and shoot them. And out that window is going an arrow of victory that you're gonna have over the Syrians."

But now there is a great lesson in the next verse—verse 18.

v. 18 Then he said, “Take the arrows,” and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, “Strike the ground,” and he struck it three times and stopped.

“Then he said, ‘Take the arrows,’ and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, ‘Strike the ground,’ and he struck it three times and stopped.”

What did we say those arrows were? They were arrows of victory. What does the king do? Tap-Tap-Tap!

A lot of people are told that when Jesus Christ comes into their lives He'll make a dramatic change. And so they go, “tap-tap-tap,” and usually their statement is, “I tried that once and it didn't work.”

The Word of God says, “You shall seek Me and find Me when you shall search for Me with all of your heart.” (ref. Jeremiah 29:13)

When we really mean business and we're doing God's business, we come with a repentant and broken heart, opening our life to the Lord Jesus. And spiritual birth takes place in the moment of that dramatic decision. God is still alive. Jesus is still waiting to come into lives. Just because there are a few of those folks who are running around playing “tap-tap-tap” and they really don't mean business, doesn't nullify the fact

that God is still changing lives.

He just strikes it three times. Just three little taps on the ground! And he's almost embarrassed by what he's doing.

v. 19 So the man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Syria until you would have destroyed it. But now you shall strike Syria only three times."

"So the man of God was angry with him and said, 'You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Syria until you would have destroyed it. But now you shall strike Syria only three times.'"

We can write over that verse: "Persistence, what a joy."

Really want to know the Lord? Seek Him and we'll find Him.

Perhaps right now He's knocking at our heart's door wanting to come into our life. Go on, open it up.

Perhaps someone is a Christian and they're really discouraged. Ready to hang it up. Like old Elijah out there in the desert, "God I'm turning in my prophet's badge. I'm too old. There's just nobody else and nobody's responding and I know You understand." Down on a self-pity kick. In the depths of depression. Feel like they have an excuse for their inactivity because once they did so poorly, now they're doing

nothing.

One dear old gentleman said it so well: “You know the greatest problem with life is it’s so daily.” (source unknown)

Persistence, what a joy. Stay with it! The victory might be just around the corner!

The biggest thrill in glory is going to be that we finished our assignments down here. Because when we can hear from our coach, the Lord Jesus, “Well done thou good and faithful servant,” we aren’t going to trade that for anything. That is going to be magnificent.

Glory beyond imagination! Instead of this business of “tap-tap tap.”

He just wants us faithful, wants us to meet with Him in the Word on a daily basis, to listen for instructions and to talk to Him about the burdens and concerns that lay upon Him, and to go on growing in grace and the knowledge of Him so that people can see that Christ lives in our life.

That’s persistence. We say, “but that’s so simple.” Exactly. And it’s so daily, isn’t it?

We never meet a person who is really spiritual who is not disciplined. Because we have to decide that we’re going to do what we don’t want to do in order to be spiritual. Because our nature says we can do it by ourselves and we can handle it by

ourselves and we don't need any help.

And to this point perhaps that's the way we've been living and that's the reason we aren't very spiritual. And we will become spiritual when we become disciplined to do what we have to do rather than what we want to do.

We have a lot of Christians running around who have learned nothing about persistence! About faithfulness! About stewardship of time and talent!

The reason we're so ineffective for the glory of God in touching our community for the Gospel of Christ is because they see nothing of the authenticity of the Gospel in our lives! Or of the risen Christ.

Paul concludes that epistle to the carnal Corinthian church when he says:

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. For as much as you know that your labor is not in vain in the world.

Someone said:

“Don't go where the path may lead, go where there is no path and leave a trail for others!”

(source unknown)

We're living in a time when it's time to strip down and become good soldiers of Jesus Christ. "No man that warreth entangleth of himself with the affairs of this life, that we may please him who hath chosen us to be a soldier." (ref. 2 Timothy 2:4)

Another great statement is, "Lead, follow or get out of the way." It's time for dynamic Christian leadership to come to the surface. People who know the call of the cross and who can sacrifice by blood, sweat and tears to live Christlike lives so others come to know Him as Savior.

That's the way our communities are going to be touched. And that's what's going to bring revival to our towns. Some of us who name the name of Christ need to get serious about our walk with God.

"And the man of God was angry with him and said, 'You should have struck it five or six times, then you would have struck Syria until you destroyed it. But now you'll strike Syria only three times.'"

He has to die sad, over the apostasy, the lack of persistence by the leader. That did it—verse 20.

v. 20 And Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the bands of the Moabites would invade the land in the spring of the year.

“And Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the bands of the Moabites will invade the land in the spring of the year.”

They always were coming up fighting against the Israelites.

v. 21 And as they were burying a man, behold, they saw a marauding band; and they cast the man into the grave of Elisha. And when the man touched the bones of Elisha he revived and stood up on his feet.

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Is anything too difficult for God? That’s just the final seal of God’s approval on his ministry.

The life-giving power and the authenticity of his ministry with the Good Housekeeping seal of approval on it! A dead body touches his bones and they’re still regenerating life in him!

There’s a New Testament counterpart to that. After that Good Friday when they put Christ into the tomb, who’s going to raise Him from the dead?

God the Father broke the bounds of death on that Easter Sunday morning, telling the world, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. He’s finished the work. The sound of my approval is that He’s broken the bounds of death and He

stands as the living eternal Christ! Waiting to give life to all those who will come in contact with Him”—Illustrated in this Old Testament account of Elisha.

Isn't it interesting how Elisha dies and how Elijah died?

To Elijah it's a dramatic catching home in a whirlwind. To Elisha, he was just lying on the bed sick. Finally he died. After he had his final assignment, he just slipped away as quietly as he came. What a beautiful person. What a gorgeous life that we've witnessed in Elisha.

Now there are a number of lessons that come out of this study

Lesson #1: Our times are in His hands. So let us number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom.

Every day speeds us closer to our encounter with Jesus Christ—willingly or unwillingly.

Lesson #2: God is still using His prophet to convey a message to the king of Israel while he is on his deathbed.

Lesson #3: “According to your faith be it unto you” (Matthew 9:29).

Lesson #4: Elisha is upset with the king for his lack of confidence and persistence in God's ability to give him the victory. (See Matthew 9:29).

Lesson #5: The time and place of our departure to be with the Lord is in His hands.

He should have continued to pursue that situation.

Lesson #6: The seal of approval upon Elisha's ministry is seen in the resurrection of the Moabite man. Even as the seal of approval upon the ministry of Jesus Christ is seen in His own resurrection from the dead.

Lesson #7: He uses your suffering as an opportunity for service rather than self-pity.

True, God's breaking our heart through what we're suffering, but use it as an opportunity for service to others.

That would bring such healing into our life. It would be unreal. When we move out in compassion with a broken heart we find others whose hearts are far more hurt and scarred than ours.

Lesson #8: Pursue His place until He tells you to stop. (See 1 Corinthians 15:58).

It's not our works, it's not our church membership, it's not doing all the good things by serving on all the committees and going to visit the sick.

Those are marvelous manifestations of a relationship, but they do not precede a relationship, they follow it.

Jesus said, “By their fruit you shall know them.” (ref. Matthew 7:16)

Lesson #9: The last half of life is the most important. Finish strong! (See Philippians 3:12-14).

Like old Nicodemus at some seventy years of age, Jesus gave him a divine imperative. He said, “You must be born again.” (ref. John 3:3)

Now that doesn’t say anything about joining the church. That doesn’t say anything about being baptized. That doesn’t say anything about catechized.

It tells us that we come to faith in the Lord Jesus, and we know whether or not that’s ever happened in our life. And if it hasn’t happened, we aren’t ready. And there is no other basis for salvation but a personal relationship to Christ.

We must be born again.

A man who is born once, dies twice. Physical death and spiritual death. But a man who is born twice, dies only once. (ref. Hebrews 9:27) And it’s not all that big a deal, because we’re absent from the body and present with the Lord. (ref. 2 Corinthians 5:8)

And we know right now if we died physically whether we’d die again spiritually in the second death because we’ve never

come to Christ.

Now we have to make that decision at some time. And hopefully that as a result of these studies, and the emphasis we've made on them, unbelievers will decide that's got to be done. It doesn't matter how old we are or how young we are, a decision must be made.

Secondly as a believer, maybe we're depressed. Maybe this series of studies has found us in adversity. And God, through the life of this dear guy who served for 90 years, He's really been speaking to us in a personal and private way. Now be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's continuing to speak with those principles to our life so we don't forget them and allow them to be applied to our life so that others see progress and they see Christ beginning to reflect Himself in our life and our witness.

Father, we thank You that anyone who will acknowledge their sin and ask the Lord Jesus to become their Savior can do so right now. Father, we pray that folks will not get confused by getting the cart before the horse, putting the church ahead of the Christ, and getting all confused and substituting one for the other. That they would first come to the Lord Jesus and then express their faith through the work of ministry of their church. We thank You Father for this privilege, scrutinizing the life closely of another man, whom You greatly used and finally put a seal of approval on him, even at the end of his life. So Father we long to hear, "Well done thou good and faithful servant." We pray that we might learn the lessons that You've taught us through this experience, that we'll not

soon forget them. Indelibly blaze them upon our hearts and lives so we'll be motivated to work the works of Him that sent us. Father for the night is coming when no man can work. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Kings 13:14-21 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How does the king respond to Elisha's sickness, according to verse 14?

3. What does Elisha ask the king to do, according to verses 15-17?

4. What does Elisha predict as a result of the shooting of the arrows?

5. What does he ask the king to do in verse 18?

6. What is Elisha's response, according to verse 19?

7. What does he predict for the king in verse 19?

8. Describe the action of verses 20 & 21.

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Our times are in His hands. So let us number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom.

LESSON #2: God is still using His prophet to convey a message to the king of Israel while he is on his deathbed.

LESSON #3: “According to your faith be it unto you” (Matthew 9:29).

LESSON #4: Elisha is upset with the king for his lack of confidence and persistence in God’s ability to give him the victory. (See Matthew 9:29).

LESSON #5: The time and place of our departure to be with the Lord is in His hands.

LESSON #6: The seal of approval upon Elisha’s ministry is seen in the resurrection of the Moabite man. Even as the seal of approval upon the ministry of Jesus Christ is seen in His own resurrection from the dead.

LESSON #7: He uses your suffering as an opportunity for service rather than self-pity.

LESSON #8: Pursue His place until He tells you to stop.
(See 1 Corinthians 15:58).

LESSON #9: The last half of life is the most important. Finish strong! (See Philippians 3:12-14).